

Message Text

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TAGS: PERP PL GE
SUBJ: MEETING IN POLAND OF POLISH AND EAST GERMAN LEADERS

1. GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY (SED) OF THE
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (GDR) ERICH HONECKER, AND
WILLI STOPH, CHAIRMAN OF THE GDR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,
SPENT FEBRUARY 18 AND 19 IN KROSNO, A PROVINCE IN
THE FAR SOUTHEAST CORNER OF POLAND BORDERING THE
SOVIET UNION. THEY MET WITH THE TOP LEADERSHIP OF THE POLISH
UNITED WORKERS' PARTY (PZPR), INCLUDING FIRST SECRETARY
OF THE PZPR EDWARD GIEREK AND CHAIRMAN OF THE
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, PIOTR JAROSZEWSICE.

2. SED POLITBIURO MEMBER GUENTER MITTAG, DIRECTOR OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE CENTRAL
COMMITTEE OF THE SED PAUL MARKOWSKI, AND HEINZ KLOPPER,
SECRETARY OF STATE IN THE GDR PLANNING COMMISSION,
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ACCOMPANIED HONECKER AND STOPH. POLITBIURO MEMBERS
EDWARD BABIUCH AND STEFAN OLSZOWSKI, JERZY WASZCEZUK,
DIRECTOR OF THE CHANCERY OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PZPR,
JANUSZ HRYNKIEWICZ, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE POLISH
PLANNING COMMISSION, AND LUCJAN PIATKOWSKI,
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE PZPR CENTRAL COMMITTEE
FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, FILLED OUT THE POLISH

TEAM AT THE TALKS.

3. ACCORDING TO POLISH NEWS ACCOUNTS OF THE MEETINGS, ON BILATERAL ISSUES THE PARTICIPANTS: (A) EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES; (B) STRESSED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GROWING TRADE FOR BOTH COUNTRIES; (C) UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN FURTHERING THE CAUSE OF "SOCIALIST" INTEGRATION.

4. THE FOLLOWING POINTS WERE MADE IN INTERNATIONAL ISSUES: (A) MILITARY DETENTE AS A COMPLEMENT TO POLITICAL DETENTE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ISSUE; (B) A STOP TO THE ARMS RACE AND A HALT IN THE PRODUCTION OF NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, "CHIEFLY THE NEUTRON BOMB", ARE NECESSARY TO INSURE MILITARY DETENTE; (C) CSCE COMMITMENTS SHOULD BE FULFILLED "IN THEIR ENTIRETY" AND THE RESULTS OF THE BELGRADE CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE "WILL BE SUITED TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF A DEEPENING OF THE PROCESS OF DETENTE"; (D) THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION SHOULD BE RESOLVED IN GENEVA AND THE CONFLICT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA SHOULD BE SETTLED PEACEFULLY, ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLES OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, THE INVIOABILITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF BORDERS, AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES; (E) THE EAST GERMAN AND POLISH COMMUNIST PARTIES REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OUTLINED AT THE 1976 CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES IN BERLIN.

5. COMMENT: THE POLISH PUBLIC LEARNED OF THE EAST GERMAN VISIT, DESCRIBED IN THE PRESS AS A "FRIENDLY, WORKING" VISIT, ONLY AFTER THE TWO DAYS OF CONSULTATION ENDED. IT IS DIFFICULT TO DIVINE FROM THE LACONIC MEDIA ACCOUNTS WHY THE MEETINGS TOOK PLACE OR WHAT ACTUALLY WAS DISCUSSED. OUR SOUNDINGS IN VARIOUS WARSAW DIPLOMATIC QUARTERS, INCLUDING EAST EUROPEAN AND WEST GERMAN, HAVE NOT SHED MUCH ADDED LIGHT. THE TENOR OF SPECULATION IS THAT THE TALKS LARGELY FOCUSED ON ECONOMIC RELATIONS. IN ANY EVENT, THE HIGH-POWERED CALIBER OF THE INTERLOCUTORS LEADS MORE THAN ROUTINE INTEREST TO THE TALKS. ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE IN THE MEETING, IT "WAS HELD IN A TRADITIONAL ATMOSPHERE OF FRIENDLINESS AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING." THIS FALLS SHORT OF STATING THERE WAS COMPLETE UNANIMITY OF

VIEWS, A FORMULATION THAT WOULD BE EXPECTED IF, IN
IN FACT, THE TWO SIDES AGREED ON ALL ISSUES RAISED
IN THE TALKS.

6. IT SEEMS RATHER ODD THAT THE ENCOUNTER TOOK
PLACE ON "THE TERRAIN OF THE KROSNO VOIVODSHIP."
KROSNO IS AN IMPORTANT POLISH SPA AREA. IF
INDEED STOPH WAS RECENTLY ILL, PERHAPS THE LOCA-
TION WAS CHOSEN IN HIS BEHALF, AT LEAST IN PART.
WHATEVER THE REASONS MAY HAVE BEEN, THE COICE
GAVE THE LEADRES OF THE TWO "BROTHERLY COUN-
TRIES" A CHANCE TO COMPARE NOTES IN A PLEASANT
ATMOSPHERE. END COMMENT.

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